MARKED-UP VERSION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from lines 19-23 with the following amended paragraph:

The abrasive grains obtained by grinding electro-fused corundum are, for the most part, made up of hexagonal monocrystals and their mechanical properties ~~which, at best,~~ are those of alumina crystals and cannot be improved.

On page 4, please delete the paragraph from lines 5-13 in its entirety.

On page 8, please amend the paragraph starting at line 31 and continuing onto page 9, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

On page 8, please amend the paragraph starting at line 31 and continuing onto page 9, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

Using the same melting means as in example 1, and under the same furnace tilting conditions as in example 2, liquid corundum is cast into a channel and is atomized at the channel outlet by means of a stream of air. In this way hollow beads are obtained whose outer diameter is less than approximately 5 mm. These beads are formed of crystals of hexagonal structure whose size ranges from 100 to 250 μm ~~as can be measured in Figure 1~~. Density is 3.85 and Knoop hardness is 1950.

On page 9, please amend the paragraph from lines 26-29 with the following amended paragraph:

Examination of the material obtained shows that it is chiefly made up of elementary crystals having a size of less than 5 μm ~~(as can be measured in Figures 2 and 3)~~, a density of 3.95 and a Knoop hardness of 2050.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5,8-9:

5. (Amended) Abrasive grain according to [any of claims 1 to 4]Claim 1, characterized in that its Knoop hardness is greater than 2050.

8. (Amended) Method according to [either of claims 6 or 7]Claim 6, characterized in that casting is conducted through a nozzle heated by induction.

9. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 6 to 8]Claim 6, characterized in that the dispersion of the molten alumina is obtained by ultrasound assisted atomization.